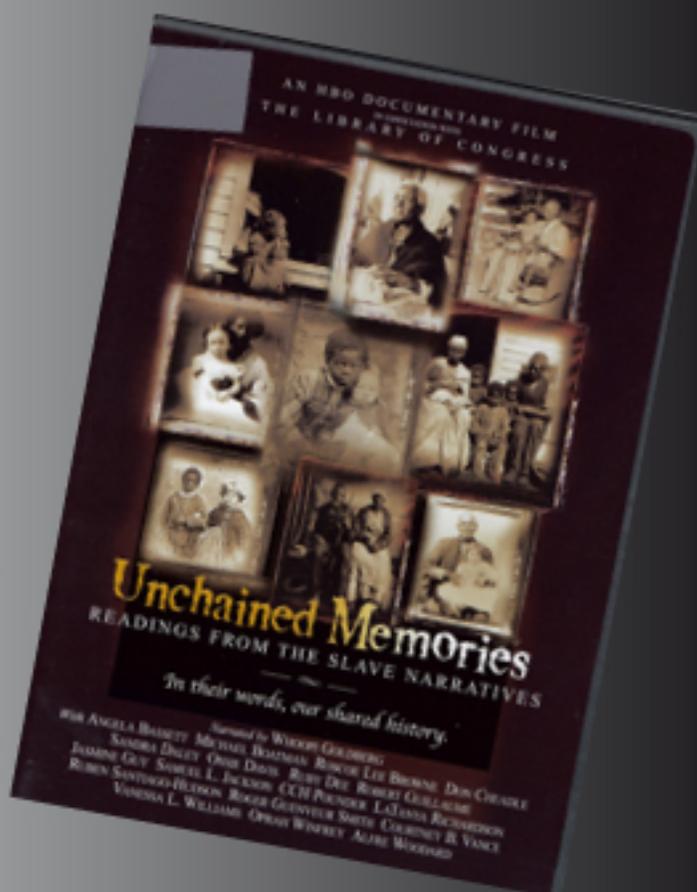
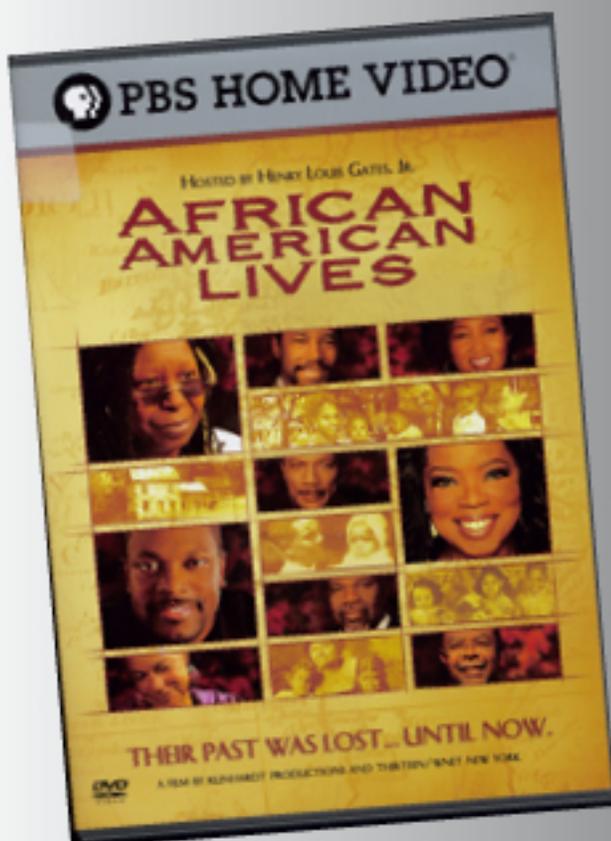


AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

Catalog 2008



Winner of 20 Film Festival Awards!

*Of Special Interest to American, African American,
Women's History and Journalism Studies*



Idu B. Wells: A PASSION FOR JUSTICE

with readings by Nobel Laureate
TONI MORRISON

Narrated by
AL FREEMAN JR.

- African American Lives

2006; 240 mins.; English version; DVD format Zone 1

Eminent Harvard Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr. uses revolutionary breakthroughs in genealogical research and DNA analysis to take eight prominent African Americans on once-unimaginable journeys into their past – tracing their family sagas down through U.S. history and even back to Africa. On this epic adventure, Gates is joined by neurosurgeon Ben Carson, actress Whoopi Goldberg, Bishop T.D. Jakes, astronaut Mae Jemison, musician/producer Quincy Jones, sociologist Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot, comedian-actor Christ Tucker and TV pioneer/philanthropist Oprah Winfrey.

- Africans in America: America's Journey Through Slavery

1998; English version. This is a worldnet 4-video series, each of which is 90 minutes, which recounts the rise and fall of slavery in the United States. It explores the contradictions that lay at the heart of the founding of America - how an infant democracy which declared all men to be created equal could at the same time enslave those of one race. The series explores these contradictions as well as chronicles the struggles of African people in America, from their arrival in the 1600's up to the period just before the Civil War. Stirring archival photographs, poignant memoirs from whites and blacks, and interviews with prominent historians from both races combine to make this series a fascinating and welcome addition to the dialogue on slavery.

- Afro-American History Specials - The Arts

1977; 60 mins ; Worldnet; English version.

Directed by Frank Kemp, a two-part program introduced and narrated by Maya Angelou. Part I, "The Legacy," surveys Afro-American musicians and dancers of the 19th Century. Part II, "The Inheritors," covers contemporary jazz musicians, dancers and painters.

- American Art Past and Present – African American Artists Affirmation Today - 1995; 30 mins.; Worldnet ; English version.

Several African-American artists (Aaron Douglas, Sam Gilliam, Lois Mailou-Jones, Leroy Almon, Frederick Brown) speak of their background and explain how they succeeded in becoming recognized artists.

- Amistad

1998; 148 mins.; Original version with French subtitles and English version both available.

Directed by Steven Spielberg. With Morgan Freeman, Anthony Hopkins, Djimon Hounsou, Matthew McConaughey.

In 1839, kidnapped Africans aboard a ship called the "Amistad" being transported from one Cuban port to another, escaped their captors. Their leader was Sengbe Pieh, a young Mende man known in the United States history as Joseph Cinque. The Africans, mostly from the neighborhood of the Colony of Sierra Leone, eventually received their freedom in 1841, after two years internment in the United States while awaiting the verdict of the courts regarding their revolt.

- Black Presence in the Era of the American Revolution -

1977- 28 mins. - Worldnet - English version.

Dir. Ronald King

History documentary in black and white, narrated by Moses Gunn, on the American Revolution, which covers the period 1775-1783. It begins with the conflict between Great-Britain and 13 of its North American colonies, resulting in independence for the colonies and for the formation of the United States of America. African-American slaves were involved in every aspect of this war, and the ideology of freedom espoused during the Revolution became a rallying cry for those who would fight for the abolition of slavery. By 1770 one-fifth of the population in the 13 colonies was of African ancestry, and almost 95 percent of these were slaves. With the coming of the Revolution the black population was of military importance to both sides. As the conflict escalated, Massachusetts became a hotbed of colonial resistance and the conflict broke into open warfare with the battles of Lexington and Concord in April 1775. Blacks in the Massachusetts colony such as Peter Salem and Salem Poor fought in these first battles and in the June 1775 Battle of Bunker Hill and continued to fight with the Continental Army throughout the Revolution. In 1777, General George Washington opened the ranks to free black men. Some of the colonies allowed slaves to win their freedom by serving in the military. By the end of the war, 5000 black had served on the side of the colonists. Several well known won distinction in their military service. Slaves who served in the military in Northern colonies were immediately freed. Those who served with the British were removed to Nova Scotia, and finding it inhospitable, emigrated to Sierra Leone. The American Revolution brought to the fore major figures such as Richard Allen, who became an African American religious leader and who founded the first African Methodist Episcopal Church, and Benjamin Banneker who created a working clock from wood and became a man of science and mathematics through unassisted experimentation and close observation of natural phenomena. Banneker employed his knowledge of astronomy and mathematics to help plan the city of Washington, D.C. He also issued the first of some ten annual almanacs, which were published by several printers and sold widely in both England and the United States.

- Black Scientists and Inventors in the U.S.

Worldnet; 26 mins.; English version.

A documentary on the most eminent black scientists, surgeons (G.T. Woods), and biologists (Dr. C. Drew) to make a major contribution to American technological achievement.

- Booker T. Washington: The Life and the Legacy -

30 mins.; English version; produced by William Greaves Company, New York
Dramatic reenactments and rare archival photographs recreate the life of this highly controversial African American who was considered the undisputed leader of Black American at the turn of the century. Narrated by Gil Noble, a multi-award winner. (includes public performance rights.)

- Boycott -

112 mins. ; 2001; English version

“Boycott” is the story of Rosa Parks and the birth of the modern Civil Rights Movement. When mild-mannered seamstress Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger in Montgomery, Alabama in 1955, events were set in motion that would change history and lead to the birth of the modern Civil Rights Movement. After Rosa’s arrest and while waiting for her appeal, the newly created Montgomery Improvement Association decides to start a boycott of the buses. To lead them, they elect 26-year old Martin Luther King Jr., a new minister and recent transplant to the community. Lead them he does, with dramatic results – the boycott lasted 381 days and resulted in the Supreme Court ruling on November 13, 1956 that bus segregation was unconstitutional.

- Chisholm’ 72 : Unbought & Unbossed

2004; 77 mins.; English version; DVD Zone 1

Nominated for the Grand Jury Prize at Sundance, this powerful documentary follows the career of Shirley Chisholm, the first black woman ever to run for President of the United States. A teacher in Harlem, Chisholm’s passion for progress brought her to local politics, then a seat in Congress, and ultimately, a run for the presidency in 1972. With archival footage and contemporary interviews, including pieces on Walter Cronkite, former congressman Ron Dellums, George Wallace and Chisholm herself, this provocative film about a woman who demonstrated “the sheer will and refusal to accept the status quo” will inspire and amaze you, regardless of your political views.

- Citizen King

2004; 120 mins.; English version; By PBS. DVD Zone 1

In April 1963, a 34-year-old minister wrote a letter from behind bars in the Birmingham jail to his fellow clergymen. “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere,” argued Dr. Martin Luther King. “Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.” The campaign to end segregation in Birmingham marked a crucial turning point in Dr. King’s life, as he embarked on a controversial, often lonely struggle to redefine and redirect the movement he had helped lead. The quest would not end until his untimely death five years later. Tapping into a rich archive of photographs and film footage and using diaries, letters, and eyewitness accounts of fellow activists, friends, journalists, political leaders and law enforcement officials, this film brings fresh insight to King’s impossible journey, his charismatic leadership and his truly remarkable impact.

- The Color Purple

1985; 152 mins.; French version.

Dir. Steven Spielberg

Starring: Whoopi Goldberg, Margaret Avery, Oprah Winfrey, Danny Glover.

A feature film on the growth of a Southern black family during the first half of the century.

- Cry Freedom

1987; 158 mins.; VHS and DVD both available

Dir. Richard Attenborough

Starring: Kevin Kline, Penelope Wilton, Denzel Washington, Alec McCowen

South African journalist Donald Woods is forced to flee the country after attempting to investigate the death in custody of his friend, the black activist Steve Biko.

- Exposures of a Movement

1996; 27 mins.; Worldnet Program; Global theme 6. English version. This is the story of four black photojournalists with ties to the Carolinas who were instrumental in photographing and reporting the black side of the Civil Rights Movement. At the risk of their own lives, photographers Cecil J. Williams, Count Jackson, James Peeler and Alex Rivera photographed people and places at the crossroads of racial conflict. During the period before “separate” was recognized as “unequal,” they used their craft to reform, inspire and educate a nation. Includes historical photos from the Civil Rights struggle now on the halls of universities such as Howard University and North Carolina Central University.

- First Person Singular: John Hope Franklin

1997; 60 mins.; Worldnet Program; Global theme 6. English version.

Narraated by recently deceased CBS newsman Charles Kuralt, this documentary look at the life and legacy of historian and educator John Hope Franklin, author of “From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African-Americans,” which has sold over three million copies. Franklin recounts his youth in a racially divided Oklahoma town (Rentiesville) and his personal achievement in education. Scholar, teacher, writer, civil rights activist, recipient of over 105 honorary degrees, Franklin taught for nineteen years at the University of Chicago, one of the nation’s most prestigious institutions of learning. Awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom , he was named to Chair of President Clinton’s Advisory Commission on race. In semi-retirement, he continues to do research and tend to his beloved orchid gardens.

- Frederick Douglas: An American Life

30 mins.; English version; Produced by William Greaves Company, New York.

Key events and significant people, including Harriet Tubman and John Brown, are dramatically recreated in this stirring multi-award winning film in the life of the 19th century abolitionist and civil rights advocate. Orator, writer, newspaper editor and publisher, Frederick Douglas escaped from slavery and spent a lifetime in the struggle for racial justice and women’s rights. (includes public performance rights.)

- From These Roots

30 mins.; English version.

Produced by William Greaves Company, New York.

Explores the extraordinary artistic, cultural and political flowering that took place in Harlem during the “Roaring 20’s.” This vivid portrait of the “Harlem Renaissance” is created entirely with period photographs. Narrated by Brock Peters, with original music especially composed and performed by Eubie Blake. Winner of 22 international film festival awards. (includes public performance rights.)

- Frontline: The Two Nations of Black America

1998; 60 mins.; Worldne; English version. Renowned Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates Jr. explores the chasm between the upper and lower echelons of black Americans and probes why how it has come about. Professor Gates draws a picture of growing black success along with deepening black despair and argues that black upper classes now have more in common with their white colleagues and peers than with the black underclass in the inner cities. The program features interviews with prominent black scholars such as Cornel West and William Julius Wilson, as well as civil rights veterans like Maulana Karenga, Eldridge Cleaver, Angela Davis, Julian Bond, Quincy Jones, and Kathleen Cleaver. Throughout the programs Gates intertwines his own life story growing up in the working class town of Piedmont, West Virginia, and compares the choices he faced as a young man and how they differ from choices many poor African-Americans face today. Gates’ journey is a vivid, compelling, thought-provoking portrait of a formerly close-knit African-American community now fragmented by a great class divide.

Usage: for Black Studies and American Studies programs. Due to some sensitive subject matter, the post should screen first to determine appropriate audiences.

- Glory

1989; 122 mins.; English version in PAL system.

Dir. Edward Zwick

Starring: Matthew Broderick, Denzel Washington, Cary Elwes, Morgan Freeman, Jihmi Kennedy, Andre Braugher, John Finn.

A young and inexperienced Union officer is given command of the first black regiment recruited to fight in the Civil War.

- Ida B. Wells: A Passion for Justice

53 mins.; English version.

Produced by William Greaves Company, New York.

Documents the dramatic life and turbulent times of the pioneering African American journalist activist suffragist and anti-lynching crusader of the post-Reconstruction period. Though virtually forgotten today, Ida B. Wells was a household name in Black America during her lifetime (1863-1931) and was considered the equal of such well-known contemporary African American leaders as Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. Dubois. Toni Morrison reads selections from Wells’ memoirs and others writings in this multi-award film. (includes public performance rights.)

- I Remember Harlem

1980; 240 mins.; 4-parts series; Released in 1996; English version.
Biographical documentary on Harlem in the period .

- Legacy of a Dream

1978; 25 mins.; French version.

Award-winning documentary on Dr. Martin Luther King. Hosted by James Earl Jones, the video examines Dr. King's non-violent movement and its relevance today. Program shows the historic chronology of events that secured the vote for American blacks and ultimately led to the death of Dr. King.

- Malcolm X

1992; 201 mins.; English version with French subtitles and French version both available.
Dir. Spike Lee

Starring: Denzel Washington, Spike Lee, Angela Bassett, Albert Hall, Al Freeman Jr.
"Biopic" (fictionalized biography??) of the turbulent life and violent death of the black revolutionary leader.

- Malcolm X: Nationalist or Humanist

15 mins.; English version; Produced by William Greaves Company, New York.

Briefly explores the life and thinking of this dynamic and controversial African American leader, focusing on Malcolm's later speeches and interviews. Features an exclusive interview with Malcolm's widow, Betty Shabbaz, filmed shortly after his death on Feb. 21, 1965, as well as archival footage of the events immediately following his assassination. (includes public performance rights.)

- Martin Luther King, Jr.: From Montgomery to Memphis

1994; 27 mins.; English version. Black and white movie.

Recounts the career of Martin Luther King, from the beginning, when he was fighting against segregation in public transportation in Montgomery, Alabama, to his assassination in Memphis, Tennessee. Contains news footage of the period showing different aspects of the Civil Rights Movement: demonstrations, sit-ins, marches, and excerpts from three of the most famous speeches, including the best-known "I have a dream."

- Martin Luther King: A Man of Peace

1965; Released in 1995; 29 mins.; French version.

Documentary of Dr. King in his campaign for civil rights. Footage of Dr. King addressing allies in this struggle, and his trip to Norway to receive his Nobel Prize for Peace in 1964.

- Martin Luther King: A Tribute

Released in 1990; 60 mins.; English version.

Musical tribute to Martin Luther King by William Warfield.

Music performed by Eastman Philharmonia of the Eastman School of Music:

- 1) “Afro-American Symphony” by William Grant Still
- 2) “New Morning for the World” by Joseph Schwantner.

“Afro-American Symphony” is music without words; “New Morning for the World” uses excerpts from King’s speeches, spoken by William Warfield. Artistic rather than analytical, this video program is recommended for occasions when an inspirational program is needed.

- Mighty Times: The Legacy of Rosa Parks

2002; 40 mins. VHS/PAL; English version.

On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks sparked a revolution by sitting still. Her simple act of defiance against racial segregation on city buses inspired the African American community of Montgomery, Alabama, to unite against the segregationists who ran City Hall. Over the course of a year, the Montgomery Bus Boycott would test the endurance of the peaceful protesters, overturn an unjust law and create a legacy that continues to inspire those who work for freedom and justice today.

“Mighty Times: The Legacy of Rosa Parks” revisits this familiar historical event and finds new stories that introduce new heroes. (2005 Daytime Emmy Award; 2002 Academy Award Nominee)

- Mississippi Burning

1988; 127 mins.; French version.

Dir. Alan Parker

Starring: Gene Hackman, Willem Dafoe, Frances McDormand, Brad Dourif.

In Mississippi in the mid-1960s, FBI agents investigate the murder of three Civil Rights workers.

- A Question of Color

1992; 57 mins.; English version.

Examines color consciousness in the American black community, tracing how it has evolved over time. Broadcast on PBS stations around the U.S., the documentary is the first of its kind to address this sensitive subject. Producer Kate Sandler interviews African-Americans around the country who recount their personal histories and describe their attitudes about color.

- Ralph Bunche: An American Odyssey

2001; 117 mins.; English version.

Produced by William Greaves Company, New York.

In 1949, Ralph Bunche (1903-1971) successfully negotiated armistice agreements between Israel and four neighboring Arab nations. For this outstanding feat, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. It was the first time ever that the prestigious prize had been awarded to a person of color and it catapulted Bunche into worldwide celebrity. However, it was not the first or the last time that Ralph Bunche would make history. The global reach of his work can be seen today in the peacekeeping strategies and operations which he created as United Nations Under-Secretary General. Bunche's living legacy also includes major contributions to world decolonization, conflict resolution and advancements in human and civil rights at home and abroad. The documentary feature takes an in-depth look at Bunche's early years, the events that shaped his world view and the forces that powered an extraordinary career as scholar, civil rights activist, international peacemaker and U.N. troubleshooter. The film is based on the biography written by Sir Brian Urquhart. It was produced by Emmy Award-winning filmmaker William Greaves and is narrated by the distinguished actor, Sidney Poitier. (includes public performance rights.)

- Richard Wright: Black Boy

1994 - Worldnet - 87 mins. English version.

Biographical documentary on the author of "Black Boy."

- Roots

Part I (362 mins; boxed set of 2 videos) and Part II (269 mins; boxed set of 2 videos) 1977; English version; PAL system.

Executive Producer: David L. Wolper

Starring: John Amos, Maya Angelou, Chuck Connors, Scatman Crothers.

Made for television story set in the suffering of slavery and discrimination endured by generations of black people, seen through the eyes of Kunta Kinte and his descendants from his youth in Africa until the American Civil War.

- Slavery and the Making of America

2006; 4hrs on 4 discs; English version; DVD Zone 1

Nearly a century and half after U.S. slavery was abolished, debate continues over its historical effects and legacy. This groundbreaking four-part documentary presents a rich, detailed look at the institution itself, a national practice which helped transform tiny British colonies into the world's strongest and richest nation. "Slavery and the Making of America" asserts that U.S. slavery gradually evolved from a loosely defined labor system, under which Africans and their descendants retained legal and property rights, into the tightly regulated enslavement of individuals based solely on race, which helped spark the Civil War. More than two dozen distinguished scholars participated as advisors or commentators in the series.

- This is America with Dennis Wholey - Race in America

1998; 60 mins.; English version.

Dennis Wholey and a panel of six Congressional Representatives discuss race relations in America. Participants are Texas Democrat Shelia Jackson Lee, Virginia Republican Thomas M. Davis, South Carolina Democrat James E. Clyburn, Michigan Democrat Carolyn C. Kilpatrick, New York Republican Amo Houghton and Colorado Democrat Dian Degetter.

- Unchained Memories: Readings from the Slave Narratives

- 2003; 75 mins. DVD Zone 1 English version; Spanish subtitles; Color with black & white footage

When the Civil War ended in 1865, more than 4 million slaves were set free. By the late 1930s, 100,000 former slaves were still alive. In the midst of the Great Depression, the Federal Writers Project hired journalists and writers to travel the country and record the memories of this last generation of African-Americans born into bondage. Over 2,000 interviews were transcribed as spoken, in the vernacular of the time, to form a unique historical record – first hand accounts of what it was to be a slave. The Library of Congress is home to most of these “Slave Narratives.”

Narrated by Whoopi Goldberg and featuring dramatic readings by Angela Bassett, Don Cheadle, Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee, Samuel L. Jackson, Oprah Winfrey and others.

“Unchained Memories: Readings from the Slave Narratives” breathes the voices of the living into these transcripts of the past, bringing to life the pain and suffering, the fear and yearning, the pride, the spirit and the deep resonating sadness of those who had been born into slavery.

- Vision of the Spirit: A Portrait of Alice Walker

1989 ; 59 mins.; French version.

An intimate portrait of Pulitzer prize-winning author Alice Walker, exploring the compassion, insight and strength that have made her one of the most admired woman in the United States. Filmed (or taped?) at Walker’s present California home, in her hometown in Georgia, and on location with the film crew of “The Color Purple.” Program up to here explores the roots of Walker’s southern black feminist consciousness through in-depth conversations with literary scholar Barbara Christian, who places Walker in the context of Afro-American literature. Archival footage of the civil rights movement provides background to Walker’s political vision.

- We Shall Overcome

1988; 58 mins.; French version.

The name of this film is the anthem for the marches for racial equality. By tracing the origins of one song, the video uncovers the diverse strands of social history which came together to form the Civil Rights movement. Narrated by Harry Belafonte, “We Shall Overcome” begins in an isolated wood frame church on the tidal islands of South Carolina. “We Shall Overcome” helped Blacks endure the long and brutal years of slavery.

- Workin’ from Can’t to Can’t: African-American Cowboys in Texas -

1995 – 27 mins. Worldnet - English version.

Six African-American cowhands in their late 60's to early 90's tell of a time and way of life when they worked from “Can't to can't – can't see when you get up and can't see when you lay down. The personal stories of these, the last of the real cowboys, are told through interviews and are accompanied by historical photographs and rare archival film of range work from the 1930's and 1950's.